

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 SCCT-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

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R 281050Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL TURIN

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0531

RUEHDC/USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS TURIN 0109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, IT

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE AT FIAT

1) DURING APRIL 1976 LOCAL PRESS EXTENSIVELY REPORTED THAT FIAT HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF A PLANNED CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE AND SABOTAGE BY UNKNOWN EXTREMISTS. A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE EVENTS FOLLOWS:

APRIL 2ND -- DURING STRIKES AT SEVERAL FIAT PLANTS IN THE TURIN PROVINCE, LABOR UNREST DEGENERATED INTO WORKERS RIOTS WITH SEVERAL CASUALTIES REPORTED.

APRIL 3RD -- AT THE MAIN FIAT PLANT AT MIRAFIORI, FIRE BROKE OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY AT FIVE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS INSIDE THE BODY BUILDING PLANT. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED, AND THE DAMAGE WAS ESTIMATED TO BE APPROX. ONE BILLION LIRE (1.1 MILLION DOLLS).

APRIL 13TH -- A FOREMAN OF ONE OF THE DIVISIONS OF THE MIRAFIORI PLANT WAS ASSAULTED NEAR HIS HOME BY UNKNOWN CRIMINALS WHO LATER CLAIMED TO BE CONNECTED WITH THE ARSON. LEAFLETS THREATENING MORE REPRISALS WERE FOUND NEARBY.

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APRIL 14TH -- FIRE BROKE OUT FOLLOWING A VIOLENT EXPLOSION AT THE FIAT WAREHOUSE WHERE RUBBER AND IMITATION LEATHER GOODS WERE STORED. WITHIN A FEW MINUTES THE BUILDING WAS REDUCED TO RUBBLE. AGAIN THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE WAS REPORTED TO BE APPROX. TWO BILLION LIRE (2.2 MILLION DOLLS).

APRIL 16TH -- AT FIAT S MIRAFIORI PLANT AN TUTOMOBILE WAS BOMBED ON THE PRODUCTION LINE. THE FIRE WHICH BROKE OUT SPREAD TO SIX OTHER VEHICLES ON THE SAME ASSEMBLY LINE. AUTOMATIC EXTINGUISHERS KEPT THE DAMAGE LIMITED TO THE COST OF THE SEVEN VEHICLES DESTROYED.

2. FIAT S SPOKESMEN INDICATED THAT THE EVENTS HAVE NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECTED FIAT OPERATIONS AS YET, NOR HAD THEY SERIOUSLY INTERFERED WITH PRODUCTION SCHEDULES. THE RUBBER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS LOST WERE A ONE-DAY SUPPLY AND WERE IMMEDIATELY RE-ORDERED AND RESUPPLIED WITHOUT DELAY. IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO PLACE ANY WORKERS ON PART TIME.

PRODUCTION THUS FAR HAS NOT BEEN SERIOUSLY INTERRUPTED. HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO FORETELL IF THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A LONG TERRORIST CAMPAIGN. ALMOST ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND UNIONS HAVE DEPLORED THIS ACTIVITY. THE FIAT WORKERS HAVE RESPONDED WITH LOOKOUT UNITS TO VOLUNTARILY PROTECT FIAT PROPERTY DURING EVENINGS, WEEK-ENDS, AND HOLIDAYS.
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